

I am proud to have visited Israel as a citizen of the United States, and I look forward to returning this summer as a member of Congress representing New York's fourth district, which is home to many people of the Jewish faith and has a special bond with the State of Israel and the Israeli people. During my time in Israel, I saw firsthand the prosperity that this great nation has built, as well as the fear that accompanies the daily threat of terrorism. On Israel's 67th year of independence, I want to congratulate the Israeli people and assure them that the U.S. will forever remain committed to their security, their survival and their prosperity.

THE AGING OUT CRISIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Autism Awareness Month and a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and a concerted national effort.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum transition into adulthood and are in the process of losing access to the vital educational, therapeutic and other services which enable them to live full, independent and successful lives.

Individuals with autism in the aging out generation find themselves entering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and as a result face shrinking opportunities—and in many cases even regression.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, Congressman MIKE DOYLE and I hosted a briefing called "Autism and the Aging Out Crisis." We brought together prominent researchers, parents of autistic children and self-advocates to discuss how to best respond to the needs of this growing demographic.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 17-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, spoke and stated that "many people with autism can be contributing, tax paying citizens of society. We just all need some level of funding for the support services that we were entitled to before graduation."

High school students are given services and supports to help prepare them for young adulthood. However, when they graduate, they face a support cliff—their services end and limited options remain available to continue development.

Many of us view high school graduation as a proud accomplishment—when hard work pays off and we become participants in an adult society. For adolescents on the autism spectrum like Jonathan, a diploma can represent the end of an era without a new beginning. The support that allowed them to continue their development and remain in the community is quickly and dramatically reduced. The challenges ahead can seem overwhelming.

According to a report released this week from Drexel University researcher Dr. Paul Shattuck—who participated in the briefing and whose work was prompted by my recent law—40% of autistic youths do not receive mental health therapy, speech counseling, case man-

agement, or even medical services related to their disability once they reach early adulthood.

26% of young adults on the autism spectrum received no services whatsoever to help them become employed, continue their education, or live more independently.

Further, the consequences of the cliff are tangible and profound. One third of young adults with autism did not continue their education or get a job in their early 20s, compared to less than 8% of young adults with other disabilities. Individuals with autism from low-income households were almost twice as likely not to continue their education or find meaningful employment.

The study found individuals with autism who transition into adulthood continue to struggle with communication, social skills, and decision making; confront behavioral challenges; and face co-morbid medical conditions and co-occurring mental health disorders related to their diagnosis. When the services which help them to address these challenges evaporate, not only do these individuals fail to progress in these areas, they are profoundly impacted by the loss of their routine, and many regress.

Mr. Speaker, autism does not end when a person reaches adulthood—and our commitment shouldn't either. Support should transition along with the individuals, bolstering the promise and realization of self-sufficiency.

My Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 or the "Autism CARES Act" (Public Law 113–157) began this conversation by tasking multiple federal agencies with producing a comprehensive study on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

As researchers, parents, and advocates indicated in the briefing today, we need a holistic approach—one that looks at healthcare, housing, employment, education and public safety, among other needs. With the assistance of Chairmen FRED UPTON and JOE PITTS, last year I also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report evaluating existing programs for effectiveness and making recommendations—in consultation with key stakeholders—on how the public and private sectors can advance initiatives to ensure a better transition.

The briefing is the first in a series the Caucus will host—building on my recent hearing "The Global Challenge of Autism"—to highlight the aging out crisis and explore remedial action. In addition to the importance of transition planning, there is evidence that with specialized support, employment is feasible even among individuals with high levels of impairment.

At my hearing, Jose Velasco, Vice President of Product Management at software giant SAP discussed their process of actively recruiting and hiring over 700 young adults on the autism spectrum. Management at SAP has recently told me that SAP's diligent young employees with autism are extraordinarily effective workers, and the corporation and the employees mutually benefit through this innovative alliance.

We have an obligation to help individuals with disabilities grow into adulthood. It is not only the right thing to do; it's a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that lower costs in the long run. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities estimates that: "Diverting just one young person into liv-

ing-wage employment could save an average of \$150,000 in SSI benefits over their lifetime. According to the Social Security Administration, transitioning just one half of one percent of current SSDI and SSI beneficiaries from benefits to self-sustaining employment would save \$3.5 billion in cash benefits over the work-life of those individuals."

By investing in and harnessing the potential of young adults with autism, we as a society will benefit from the unique skills, abilities, and perspectives of the aging out generation.

HONORING THE SIMON RIVERA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL RAIDERS, THE 2015 6A BOYS SOCCER UIL STATE CHAMPIONS FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

HON. FIELEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the Simon Rivera Early College High School Raiders—the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Champions from Brownsville, Texas. Their undefeated 28 game season proved that the Rio Grande Valley is home to the best soccer team in the State of Texas, and one of the best in the nation.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Rivera Raiders beat Katy Cinco Ranch 2 to 0 in Georgetown, Texas. The win cemented their state title and brought a third statewide championship to the Brownsville Independent School District.

From the onset of the 2015 soccer season, Coach Salvador Garcia knew the Rivera Raiders were a "Team of Destiny," and would rally the support of an entire community. Coach Garcia's dedication, tenacity and years of experience would transform the Rivera Raiders into an undefeated powerhouse. He knew the hours of practice and commitment would yield only one outcome—a chance to prove what he already knew—that the Rivera Raiders would be the best soccer team in Texas.

Their historic championship season serves as a reminder that through teamwork and perseverance, we are all capable of achieving great things. The entire team of dedicated student-athletes set an example to be emulated. Their accomplishments have earned them a place in the history of Rivera High School, and the legacy of their state championship will live on through the precedent set by an undefeated season.

To all those who supported the players, your efforts were critical to the strength of the Rivera Raiders. You drove them to practices early in the morning and picked them up late into the evening. On game days, you prepared them the nutritious meals that would give them stamina. You helped them balance the demands of athletics, studies, and home life, and you instilled the values of humility, sportsmanship and perseverance.

To the faculty and staff at Rivera High School: teachers, assistant coaches, counselors, principals, support staff and personnel, thank you for all that you do to help our children accomplish their goals. Your commitment to educating all students is vital as we prepare the next generation of Americans to lead our nation in the future. Keep doing the excellent job you do.

The coaches and players who inspired a community and cemented their place in Rivera High School history by winning the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Championship are Head Coach Salvador Garcia; Assistant Coaches Jose Dominguez, Andres Macias and Jimmy Montalvo; Athletic Coordinator Tom Chavez; and Principal Aimee Garza-Limon.

The 2015 Rivera Raiders are Isidro Martinez (named Most Valuable Player); Eliezer Acero; Israel Acero; David Alexander; Erik A. Alonso; Carlos I. Alvarez; Jose R. Alvarez, Jr.; Francisco Cardenas, Jr.; Roberto C. Castro; Jorge A. Cordova; Abdon Cruz; Hernan A. Cruz; Ivan L. Cruz; Julian Espinoza; Marcos A. Hernandez, Jr.; Alexis Herrera; Lee R. Martinez; Roberto J. Melendez; Eliseo F. Ortiz; Edward M. Rojas; Eduardo A. Salinas; Sergio Soto-Ramirez; Jesus A. Torres II; Jose A. Muniz Velazquez; Jose M. Villanueva, Jr.; Alfredo G. Villarreal; and Jesus R. Zaragoza.

These students from Rivera High School represented the Brownsville Independent School District and the City of Brownsville in a manner that brings great credit and distinction to our region, and I am proud that they set an example for us all to follow. I wish each of them the best in their future endeavors, and I join with my colleagues in Congress in congratulating them on an undefeated championship season.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND FRANK
FRESCHI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a wonderful human being, good friend, and a great American. Raymond Frank Freschi died earlier this month at the age of 89. Ray will always be remembered for his very kind and generous heart and lively spirit. He loved his family, his many friends and his life. He will be greatly missed.

Ray was born in Clifton, New Jersey on June 16, 1925. Ray joined the Navy after graduating from high school and served as a medic-corpsman in Norfolk, Virginia and later aboard the U.S. *Wakefield* on a mission to China. Upon leaving the Navy, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson College in Rutherford, New Jersey and then transferred to University of Southern California. At USC he met his beloved wife Shirley, to whom he was married for 65 years—they are an example of a beautiful couple actively involved in their community. They had two children, daughter, Susan Elaine, who sadly preceded Ray in death, and son Raymond Sandy Freschi Jr. Ray and Shirley lived in La Canada-Flintridge in Southern California for 25 years before moving to Pebble Beach for the next 25 years, and then on to Carmel Valley Manor.

Everybody who knew Ray remarked on what a joyous person he was. He radiated happiness. He loved and respected people; always taking a genuine interest in others. Among other things, this helped him become a successful real estate entrepreneur. Ray studied and taught real estate, and quickly established, what was then, the largest real es-

tate office in Glendale, California. Among Ray's many accomplishments was purchasing the Chevy Chase country club in Glendale, and transforming it into a thriving successful golf community. He also developed a three story office building and condominium complex on the Golden State Freeway in Glendale. Ray even made a run for a House seat here in Congress. Later, during his retirement, Ray built several beautiful houses in Pebble Beach.

For many years, Ray had enjoyed spending time at his Green Glen ranch property in Gilroy. Ray's hobby was driving horses and collecting antique carriages and wagons. While in Pebble Beach, Ray could often be seen on the weekends driving a pair of his Welsh Cobbs, Concord & Taffy, or his French Percheron draft horses, Peter & Oliver with a newlywed couple in the carriage. His appearance brought joy to everyone, especially my daughter who has followed his professional love of horses.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our condolences to Ray's friends and family, including his wife Shirley, son Sandy, grandchildren Peter McLean Freschi, Brooke Susan Freschi., sister Beverly Vivenetto, as well as many nieces and nephews.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Shahinian Family, Melkonian Family, Nalbandian Family, Kharmandarian Family, Kasbarian Family, Eksoozian Family, Garabedian Family, Hairabedian Family, Etyemezian Family, Barsoumian Family, K. Vartanian, Levonian Family, Gugasian Family, A. Arakelian, the parents and family of Simon Samsonian, Arakelian Family, Harutune Dadourian and 41 members of Dadourian and Arsenian Families, Hunazant Alexanian and 49 members of Alexanian and Abkarian Families, First daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Second daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Rev. Fr. Mashdots Abajian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Adomian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Afarian, Rev. Fr. Kiud Aghayekian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Aginian, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ajemian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Alamasharian, Rev. Fr. Alexan Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Amirkhanian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ananian, Rev. Fr. Atam Anchigian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Andnonian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Andonian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Apkarian, Rev. Fr. Housig Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Melidos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Arakelian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Arakelian, Archpriest Fr. Yeghish Aramian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasab Aramian, V. Rev. Fr. Gomidas Ardzrouni, Rev. Fr. Karekin Arekian, Rev. Fr. Yeznag Arevigian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Arisian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Armaghanean, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Aroyan, Rev. Fr. Arsen Arshagouni,

Rev. Fr. Avedis Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Yeremia Asarian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Asdikian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Asdourian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Housig Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Atamian, V. Rev. Fr. Mikael Atchabahian, Rev. Fr. Inkndios Avakian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Avakian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Avedian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Kasbar Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Iravapar Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Marouk Babian, Rev. Fr. Andon Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Baghdassarian, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepan Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Agepsimos Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Sempad Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Pakrad Balemiag, Rev. Fr. Nerses Balian, Rev. Fr. Movses Baligian, Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Baligian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghish Balouni, Rev. Fr. Shigha Bantekhdian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Barigian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Baronian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Baronian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Bayian, Rev. Fr. Armenag Bedigian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Asdvadzadour Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Bedrossian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Begian, Rev. Fr. Taniel Begian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Behrigian, Rev. Fr. Magar Bekhozian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Benneyan, Rev. Fr. Hagop Berberian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Beylerian, Rev. Fr. Kerovp Biberian, Bishop Sempad Saadetian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Vahram Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Aram Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bordigian, Rev. Fr. Krisdapor Bosdigian, V. Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Bouroujian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Boyajian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Boyapian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Chamashourian, Rev. Fr. Nershabouh Charchian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Chekmezian, Rev. Fr. Souren Chengelian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Cheourigian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Chitchekeian, Rev. Fr. Toros Chitcjan, Rev. Fr. Vosgian Cholakian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Cholakian, Rev. Fr. Arshavir Choloyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Daderian, Rev. Fr. Natan Dadian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Dadigian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Daghljan, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Dayan, Rev. Fr. Neshan Der Antreassian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Hmayag Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Melkon Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Yeremia Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasab Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khosrov Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Der Garabedian, Archpriest Ghevont Der Ghevontian, Rev. Fr. Gournelios Der Gureghian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Zenop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasab Der Hamzasabian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Der